

Applicant : Jürgen Wient et al.

Attorney's Docket No.: 12758-

Serial No. : 09/806,052

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Filed : June 19, 2001

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According to a further advantageous embodiment of the invention, it is provided that the user information (NI) represents digitized voice information. In this context, more voice information can be transmitted in subnetworks having a limited transmission capacity.

A further development of this embodiment of the invention provides that the voice information is digitized into first bit groups of four bits in accordance with an adaptive differential pulse code modulation method. In this context, the number of subnetwork-specific transmission units, e.g. ATM cells or Internet packets, needed for transmitting the voice information, can be advantageously reduced by at least a factor of two.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --;

On page 7, between lines 31 and 32, please insert:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION--;

On page 13, line 1, please replace the heading as follows:

--WHAT IS CLAIMED IS--.

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1-10 as follows:

-- 1. (Amended) A method for transmitting digital user information that is structured as a plurality of first bit groups of  $2^N$  bits and that is transmitted according to a protocol having bit groups of  $2^M$  bits, M being greater than N, the method comprising:

combining up to  $2^{M-N}$  successive first bit groups to form a second bit group; and  
transmitting the second bit group in accordance with the protocol.

2. (Amended) The method in claim 1, wherein the second bit group is transmitted using ATM cells.

3. (Amended) The method in claim 2, wherein the protocol is based on International ITU-T Standard I.363.1.

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4. (Amended) The method in claim 1, wherein the second bit group is transmitted using Internet packets.

5. (Amended) The method in claim 1, wherein the first bit groups, before being combined into the second bit group, are transmitted in accordance with a further protocol.

6. (Amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising dividing the second bit group, transmitted in accordance with the protocol, into the successive first bit groups.

7. (Amended) The method in claim 6, further comprising transmitting the original first bit groups in accordance with an additional protocol.

8. (Amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising transmitting the second bit group, transmitted in accordance with the protocol, in accordance with an additional protocol.

9. (Amended) The method in claim 1, wherein the user information represents voice information.

10. (Amended) The method in claim 9, further comprising digitizing the voice information into first bit groups of four bits in accordance with an adaptive differential pulse code modulation method.--

Add claims 11-19 as follows:

-- 11. A system for transmitting digital information, comprising:

a first subnetwork arranged to transmit information according to a first protocol having a plurality of first bit groups of  $2^N$  bits;

a second subnetwork arranged to transmit the information according to a second protocol having a plurality of second bit groups of  $2^M$  bits, M being greater than N; and

a communication facility arranged to connect the first subnetwork to the second subnetwork and combine up to  $2^{M-N}$  successive first bit groups to form a second bit group and to transmit the first bit groups combined to form the second bit group using the second protocol.

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12. The system in claim 11, wherein the second subnetwork uses ATM cells to transmit the information.

13. The system in claim 12, wherein the second protocol is designed based on International ITU-T Standard I.363.1.

14. The system in claim 11, wherein the second subnetwork uses Internet packets to transmit the information.

15. The system in claim 11, wherein the first bit groups are transmitted over the first subnetwork in accordance with the first protocol before being combined into the second bit group at the communication facility.

16. The system in claim 11, further comprising a second communication facility arranged to receive the second bit group transmitted in accordance with the second protocol and divide the received second bit group into the successive first bit groups.

17. The system in claim 16, further comprising a third subnetwork arranged to transmit the divided first bit groups in accordance with a third protocol.

18. The system in claim 11, wherein the digital information represents voice information.

19. The system in claim 18, wherein the voice information in the first bit groups includes four bits and is based on an adaptive differential pulse code modulation method. --

In the abstract:

Replace the abstract with the following version:

-- Transmitting digital information structured in bit groups according  
to a protocol designed for another bit group structure

According to the invention, digital voice information compressed into first bit groups of  $2^N$  bits are transmitted in ATM cells or Internet packets by combining in each case up to  $2^{M-N}$

DEC. 2. 2004 3:37PM (3) FISH & RICHARDSON 6175428906

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first bit groups to form a second bit group of  $2^M$  bits, M being greater than N, in accordance with a protocol designed for the second bit groups. As a result, the compressed voice information may be transmitted efficiently in accordance with the protocol designed for bit groups of  $2^M$  bits. --